

TRIAL MARRIAGE, DIVORCE AT WILL, WOMAN SUGGESTS

Wife of Congressman Parsons Writes Book on Amazing Proposition.

PART-TIME ALLIANCES.

Matrimonial Conditions to Be Maintained on Certain Days of Week.

An amazing suggestion for a safeguard against prolonged marital unhappiness is made in a book published yesterday, of which Mrs. Elsie Clews Parsons is the author. The writer points to trial marriages, or probationary nuptials, as a means to the desired end of conjugal harmony or fitness.

By this plan, couples would enter into an agreement to try married life for a given period, at the end of which, if there were no children, they might agree mutually to continue the relation of sever it and go back to single blessedness.

Mrs. Parsons is the daughter of Henry Clows, the banker, and the wife of Congressman Herbert Parsons. Of this city, she is a woman of wide learning, a doctor of philosophy, and for six years, until 1905, she was a lecturer on sociology in Barnard College. Her book is from the press of G. P. Putnam's Sons.

A History of Marriage.

The volume consists of fifteen lectures. It is a comprehensive, painstaking history of the family relations from ancient times to the present day, and contains a great mass of data concerning marriages among all civilized peoples.

For the infelicitous which beset the institution of matrimony to-day, Mrs. Parsons offers remedies, to be applied before or after the nuptial knot is tied. The trial marriage, she says, is a legal supervision of the qualities of the would-be contracting parties, to the end that their fitness for the conjugal state may be determined before the license is granted.

She has much to say about trial or time marriages. The trial marriage as suggested by her is a union in which partnership, or fix a period of probation, the couple set a time limit upon the trial. At the end of such period, if the relation is found to be satisfactory, it may be continued; if not, the parties are at liberty to separate. Mrs. Parsons enumerates the many reasons why a woman should not marry, and no children have blessed the union, they may do so by mutual agreement, without the intervention of the courts. The author favors, also, the removal of legal restraint upon either the man or woman so divorced from marrying again.

Present Day Evils.

The main part of the book is given to the story of social origins and developments, particularly as respect to the family relation. In the closing chapter, which is an ethical consideration of what has gone before, the author points out present-day matrimonial evils and suggests reforms. The work as a whole, Mrs. Parsons says, is intended to be a useful guide to the intelligent mothers "who, single-handed, undertake the responsibility of fitting their daughters for useful and joyous womanhood."

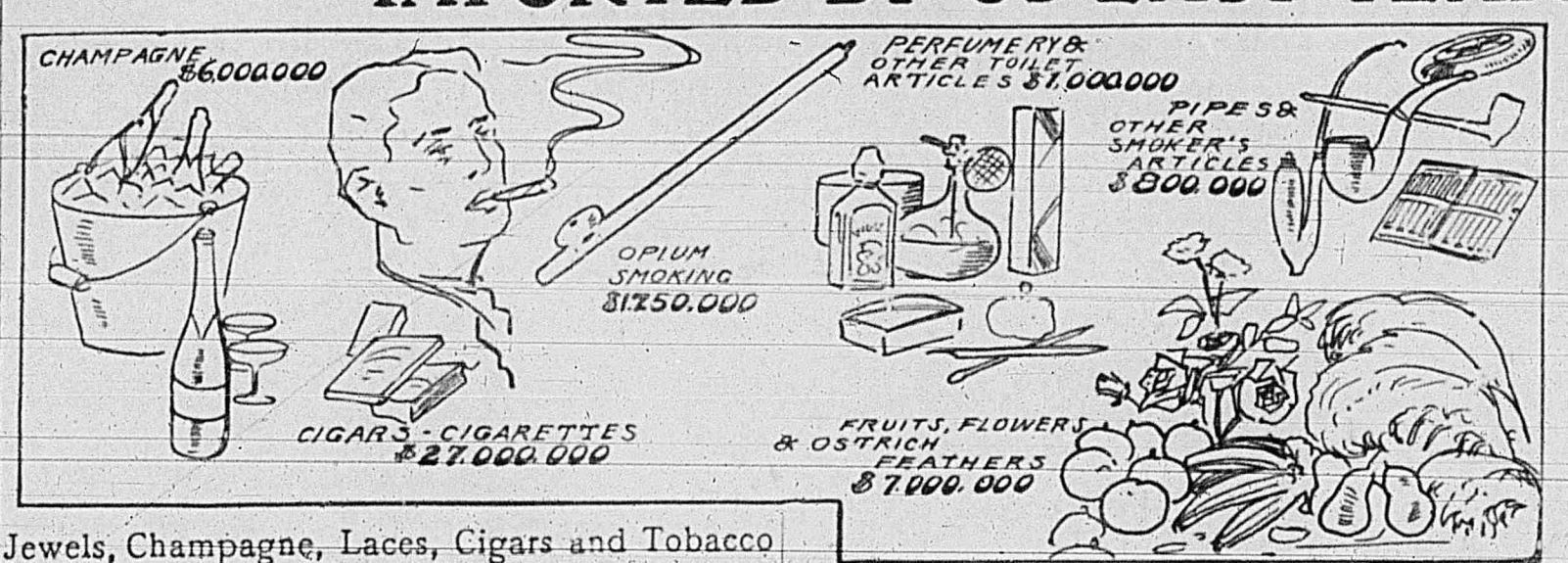
After showing that men and women bent upon marriage in the past gave no thought to society's welfare, the author says that the modern perspective is changing tendency in modern times. "There are signs already," she announces, "of the spread of the idea that the individual is bound to consider the effects upon society of his or her marriage. Individuals tainted by epilepsy, insanity, inebriety, deaf-mutism, and other defects, may not be morally guilty if they marry. There is a growing realization of the cost to the State of reproduction by its diseased or vicious subjects, and a growing inclination to prevent these classes from reproducing themselves."

Eugenics a Religion.

"If the biological knowledge of the future throws more light upon the present-day mysteries of heredity, demonstrating the disastrous results of the mating of those handicapped by minor as well as by more heinous taints or lacks, the social question in marriage will be held more and more considerable. The social demand for the possession of progressive traits, physical, moral and mental, as well as lack of disease on the part of child-bearers and begotten, will exert more and more pressure upon the individual. Eugenics, as Prof. Galton suggests, will become a religious dogma."

"The relation between married per-

\$100,000,000 COST OF LUXURIES IMPORTED BY US LAST YEAR



Jewels, Champagne, Laces, Cigars and Tobacco Needed Here Keep Nations Busy to Gratify Uncle Sam.

Luxuries costing the neat sum of \$100,000,000 were imported and enjoyed by the people of the United States during the fiscal year of 1906, which has just ended, and among the items which go to make up this astounding total are opium, costing \$1,500,000; champagne to the tune of \$60,000,000; perfumery and other toilet necessities \$15,000,000; cigars and cigarettes \$27,000,000; and pipes and fancy articles for the smoker, \$8,000,000. Besides the \$100,000,000 mentioned are cigars and tobacco, which run up to nearly \$5,000,000 more, and prove that the American who can afford to buy imported smokes and cigars is here in numbers.

A decade ago, the sons and daughters

of Uncle Sam managed to content themselves with the consumption of \$50,000,000 worth of imported luxuries, which was the figure for 1896, but each year the appetite for the fancy frills of foreign countries has increased, until it stands to-day a thing to marvel at.

\$40,000,000 for Jewels.

Diamonds and other fine stones came in during the year to the extent of \$40,000,000, while laces, embroideries, and ribbons to bedeck the beauties of womanhood cost the same amount. In 1906 America managed to pull through with only \$7,000,000 worth of diamonds, but this year it took \$35,000,000 worth of these gems alone to keep the people contented.

Laces and embroideries, &c., come next after diamonds, in the way of increase, the country only importing \$1,000,000 of such things in 1896, against \$34,000,000 this year.

Ten years ago only \$2,500,000 worth of champagne was sufficient to go around, while \$60,000,000 spent abroad in opium furnished pills for those who love the "pipe."

Most of the luxuries imported come from Europe; not that they are all grown or manufactured there, but European merchants are intermediaries through which the fancy of the Orient and the gems of the Dark Continent pass to America. The United Kingdom and the Netherlands sell us the greatest quantity, leading \$11,000,000 worth of diamonds each, while little Switzerland takes \$11,214,715 from America for its laces and embroideries.

France Gets Champagne Money.

France gets 90 per cent. of the money the United States spends for champagne

and Belgium and the United Kingdom set most of the other 10 per cent.

Germany sells us \$5,041,151 worth of dress trimmings, while France furnishes \$10,301,174 worth of such things.

Cigars and tobacco imported come mainly from Cuba, but Turkey supplies \$1,000,000 worth and the Netherlands draws from Sumatra, nearly \$5,000,000 worth of cigar wrappers which are sold to Uncle Sam.

The Bureau of Commerce and Labor, which issues the statement, does not sound "a note of warning" against extravagance in the way of luxuries, but appears to take pride in the big showing made. It is suggested that the average luxuries for each person in the country will amount to a little more than \$1.50, which any American ought to be able to stand, but on the other hand, it is argued that millions do not know the sight of an imported luxury, and other millions do not seem to be able to come into possession of ordinary domestic things beyond what they of necessity must have for comfort.

At the rate of increase in the way of imported luxuries since 1896, another year will see half the world busy making money for the well-to-do people of America. It is suggested.

SOME AMAZING PROPOSITIONS IN MRS. PARSONS'S NEW BOOK.

Marriages to be mere contracts, entered into simply by agreement between the couples.

Definite period of "trial" or "probationary" marriage, at the termination of which the relation may be continued or abandoned by agreement, provided there be no children.

Couples separated by such agreement not to be restrained from remarriage. In short, law to have no jurisdiction in opposition to individual desire.

Legal supervision during a stated period of couples signifying an intention of entering upon a marriage contract; this to insure the physical and mental fitness of the parties to the match.

A "part-time" marriage relation, if mutually satisfactory, to be maintained during certain days of the week.

"Polygamy" satisfies to a certain extent the desire for variety to which transiency of relationship is often due.

WOMAN DERELICT DIES NEAR HAVEN

Always before us a great number of examples of men who marry, live with their wives until they have borne several children, and then, unwilling to assume further responsibility for their families, desert them and move to some other place, where many of the men marry again. These abandoned families in the majority of instances have to be supported by the city or the State. I presume these marriages in the tenement districts are what could be fairly called trial marriages.

"There is no excuse for such a system. The propriety of a marriage depends on the permanency of the home life, and the trial marriage would disorganize society and thereby disastrously affect the State."

Boy Dies of Football Injure.

LAFAYETTE, Ind., Nov. 17.—Lyle Nicol, sixteen years old, son of Hug Nicol, athletic director of Purdue University, is dead of an injury received in a football game last Wednesday when he was kicked in the abdomen.

Author of Radical Book On "Part-Time" Marriage



Mrs. HERBERT PARSONS.

SOCIALISTS FOND OF TRIAL-MARRIAGE.

Plan World Degenerate Society and Destroy State, Says Mrs. Clarence Eburns.

Mrs. Clarence Eburns, President of the Little Mothers' Aid Association, and identified with other women's organizations, said last night:

"I am most positively opposed to trial marriage, or to any such plan as that proposed by Mrs. Parsons. There are many Socialists who hold a similar view, and live together without any ceremony. I am surprised that any intelligent American woman should make such a proposition.

"Trial marriage" would be a most disastrous thing for society. It would give unbridled license to a great many persons to live together without any ceremony. People under such a system would become degenerate. It would result in the breaking up of the home life. In the tenement districts we have

MUTINY IN STORM ON CABLE SHIP

Firemen on Government Vessel Burnside Thought She Was Sinking.

SEATTLE, Wash., Nov. 17.—The United States cable ship Burnside, Capt. Henry W. Stamford, has arrived at Sitka, after a stormy voyage, during which some of her crew attempted a mutiny because they were forced to remain at their posts while the vessel was going to the bottom. The trouble was all over the firemen running from the engine-rooms when water poured in from above.

At times the ship was entirely submerged, the waves washing into the cabins, filling them and rushing below. Fearing the vessel was going to the bottom, the firemen left their posts and refused to return until threatened with punishment and assured they were in no danger.

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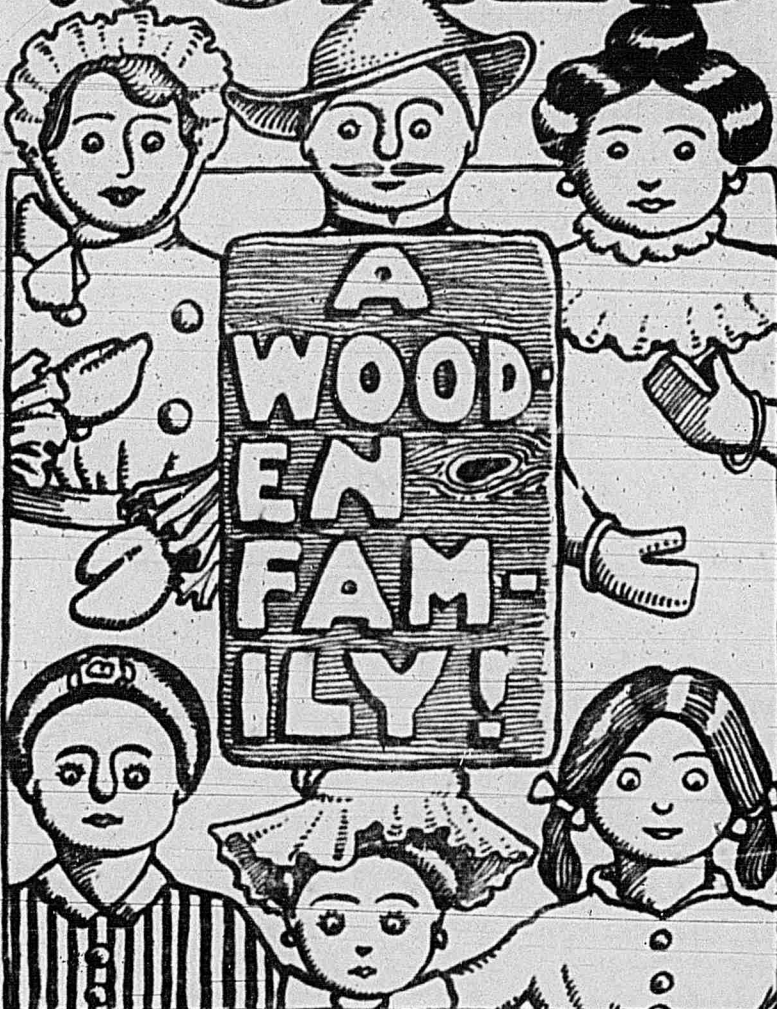
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